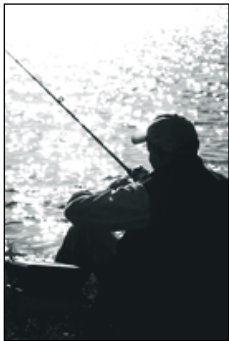


# WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

## Recreation Fees Rolled Back

If you enjoy the great outdoors, you'll be happy to learn that the legislature reduced recent increases in hunting, fishing, camping and park entrance fees. For example, a pass during the weekend at Hammonasset State Park has been rolled back by about \$7. We also approved rebates next year for those who purchased certain licenses before the price cut was enacted.



## Repairing Road Cuts

When utilities—especially the water and gas companies—need to do



underground work, they make a cut in the pavement that they are then supposed to repair, restoring a safe, smooth road surface.

Too often the utilities responsible do not make sure that the initial temporary asphalt patch is repaired in such a way that it does not sink and cause a depression, leaving us with a

bumpy, hazardous street to navigate.

This year, I wrote and my committee passed legislation that would require all utility companies to document and track road cuts for a minimum of a year, ensuring that proper repairs are made and permanent patches remain in good condition. Driving down your street should not risk damaging your vehicle.

## Cleaning Up Graffiti

Increasingly, street signs, utility boxes and any available wall are targets for vandals with markers or cans of spray paint, making our neighborhoods look run-down and trashy. This is not acceptable.

I have brought together a broad coalition to take on the plague of graffiti, creating a team that includes the Knox Parks Foundation, Hartford Areas Rally Together, Hartford Community Court, the City of Hartford, merchant organizations and major utility companies to assemble the resources and manpower necessary to regularly patrol city streets and neighborhoods to remove graffiti quickly and thoroughly. The surveillance of the individuals involved in the graffiti "tagging" will also increase.

I am committed to building an aggressive and effective city offensive to rid our buildings and streets of these eyesores and to reduce or eliminate this blight that is affecting every neighborhood in Hartford.



I was pleased to obtain a \$500,000 state grant for a new baseball complex at Hyland Park. On June 19th, I was joined by Representative Minnie Gonzalez, President of Roberto Clemente Little League Alex Martinez, city and league officials and Little Leaguers to break ground for the new ball field, which will be ready for use next spring.

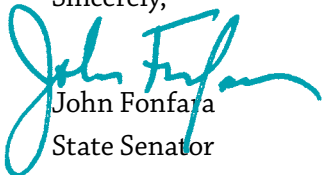
Dear Neighbor,

This year and last have been the most difficult budget years in my time in the Legislature. The longest recession in our memory has hit Connecticut hard. As a state, we have had to reduce and—in some cases—eliminate programs and services that many people rely on. On the positive side, we did not raise taxes or cut aid to local education.

The good news is that we have begun to see some improvement in revenues in the last three months. Hopefully these positive signs will continue. No matter what, we will work to protect the most vulnerable we represent.

This session we were able to take some important steps to: help grow jobs—the most important thing we can do to help everyone out of this recession; pass a comprehensive energy bill; and adopt significant school reform measures. You will find information about these and other legislative actions of importance to our families and communities in this annual newsletter. I hope that you find it informative.

As always, I am honored to represent you in the Connecticut State Senate, and I welcome your feedback on these or any other issues.

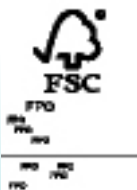
Sincerely,  
  
John Fonfara  
State Senator

State Senator  
**John Fonfara**

Legislative Office Building, Room 3900, Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
www.SenatorFonfara.cga.ct.gov  
Fonfara@senatedems.ct.gov  
860-240-0043

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represent the  
citizens of  
Hartford &  
Wethersfield

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# STATE SENATOR John Fonfara

## Serving Hartford & Wethersfield

SUMMER 2010

### HELPING CREATE JOBS

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping to put people back to work. I am pleased that we adopted a number of measures, including:

- ▶ Loans for small businesses to fund expansions and new hires and loan reimbursements and grants for training in green jobs and health information technology
- ▶ Connecticut State Universities now able to award doctoral degrees in nursing
- ▶ Tax exemptions for businesses in targeted communities—including Hartford—for purchase of manufacturing, biotechnology or recycling equipment

### SUPPORT FOR HARTFORD HEALTH CARE

We passed a major new initiative to rebuild UConn Health Center's academic side. Together with State Representatives Kelvin Roldan, Minnie Gonzalez and Hector Robles, I successfully negotiated **\$5 million each** for a new simulation center at **Hartford Hospital** and a primary care center at **Saint Francis Hospital**; and, most importantly, **\$1 million each** for **Charter Oak Health Center**, the **Hispanic Health Council** and **Community Health Services**. This funding will allow these community health programs to improve their facilities and expand their programs.

### EDUCATION



#### Helping Students Race to the Top

The Obama Administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. We adopted legislation that gives Connecticut a better shot at securing these funds, closing the achievement gap and ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy. Included is a provision that will help increase parent participation in reforming consistently failing schools. Parents must be at the table with teachers and

administrators in identifying reform strategies.

#### Standing Up For Vocational-Technical Schools

Vo-tech graduates contribute to a well-trained, highly qualified, experienced workforce. In addition to the recent \$80 million I was pleased to secure for a newly renovated **A.I. Prince Tech**, this session we made sure that the state Board of Education makes the needs of our vo-tech schools a priority.

## LOWERING ENERGY COSTS

As co-chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, I co-wrote and passed the most significant energy legislation in the past five years. The main objectives of the bill were to lower electricity costs, reduce heating bills, help businesses compete and build a Connecticut-based renewable energy industry. Specifically, this bill—which unfortunately was vetoed by the Governor—would have helped Connecticut ratepayers by:



#### Lowering electric bills

- ▶ Targeting a 15 percent reduction in rates by July 1, 2012
- ▶ Providing the tools to better manage energy costs, including time-of-use rates and meters
- ▶ Allowing municipalities to use bonding to help homeowners afford energy improvements

#### Lowering home-heating costs

- ▶ Creating a program for low-cost financing for high-efficiency oil and gas boilers and furnaces
- ▶ Providing incentives for solar-thermal installations

#### Creating jobs and helping businesses

- ▶ Requiring major investment to build a sustainable Connecticut solar industry
- ▶ Creating incentives for wind, hydro and other renewable technologies
- ▶ Providing incentives for combined heat and power projects

#### Investing in distressed areas and minority-owned businesses

- ▶ Establishing annual commitment for increased energy-efficiency investments in residential and commercial buildings in distressed communities such as Hartford
- ▶ Mandating support for development of minority-owned, energy-related businesses
- ▶ Providing job training and other assistance to minority-owned energy businesses

#### Helping our environment

- ▶ Reducing Connecticut's output of greenhouse gases and other pollutants
- ▶ Adopting California's efficiency standards for TVs and other products by 2013

### Improving Silas Deane Tax Base



Despite many successful businesses, the Silas Deane is underdeveloped as an economic engine for Wethersfield. Innovative development can create a Silas Deane that contributes far more to the tax base of the community. Unfortunately, until we achieve property tax reform, we will continue to rely disproportionately on residential taxpayers to fund essential town services.

That is why I am continuing my efforts to establish a forum that will seek input from developers, commercial property owners and residents, and chart a course for a smarter Silas Deane, one that will result in real growth for Wethersfield's tax base.

### Helping Seniors Survive the Recession



The effect of the recession on seniors has been especially hard. I am pleased that we passed several laws to help this vulnerable population, especially reducing the co-pay on the Home Care Program for Elders from 15 to 6 percent, saving nearly \$100 a month for the average client, and reopening the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, an essential lifeline for caregivers.

### Coverage for Oral Chemotherapy

Some insurance companies have been unwilling to fully cover the costs of oral chemotherapy the way that they cover intravenous chemotherapy. A new law requires parity for the two strategies. Cancer patients can now rest assured of comparable insurance coverage for each chemotherapy protocol.



### Another Weapon in the Fight Against Breast Cancer

We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer. Fortunately, proper diagnosis and treatment can make a real difference. That's why I voted for a bill that would have provided women with another weapon in the fight against breast cancer. Health insurance companies would be required to cover the cost of MRIs when initial mammograms find dense breast tissue. Unfortunately, this bill was not enacted into law, but I will continue to advocate for this important coverage.